

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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November 30, 2004

FROM: PATRICK J. MEAD, Director
Department of Public Works – Flood Control

**SUBJECT: OLD WATERMAN CANYON, EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION
PROGRAM – AGREEMENT WITH NRCS AMENDMENT NO. 2**

RECOMMENDATION: Acting as the governing body of the Flood Control District (District), approve Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative Agreement No. 04-296 with the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), to increase the maximum cost share by NRCS from \$198,000 to \$296,931.88 for emergency watershed protection measures to the Old Waterman Canyon Road, located in the north San Bernardino area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Last fall, the Old Fire burned nearly 100% of the watershed area for the Old Waterman Canyon creating a condition where heavy runoff and debris from winter storms could result in localized flooding and debris flows causing significant damage. In November 2003, NRCS representatives met with the District to evaluate the potential impact of debris flows and develop an emergency work program to minimize the impact of any significant storms in the watershed area. NRCS identified several residences that could be susceptible to damage from excessive debris flows and a cost-to-benefit study justified grant funding. The December 2003 Christmas storm caused the total loss of 1 home and undermined the stream bank adjacent to 5 properties. Debris from future storm events continues to threaten these homes and validates the need for emergency improvements. Local, state and federal officials recognized the potential for similar future events and the NRCS appropriated \$198,000 to provide flood protection for this area.

The proposed project includes armoring the stream banks using grouted rock and interlocking concrete blocks to protect homes from slope failures, construction of a timber wall on the top of the bank for additional protection against debris overflows, and placing k-rail protection adjacent to 3 residences along the roadway.

On April 20, 2004 the Board approved a Cooperative Agreement with NRCS in which NRCS agreed to provide a maximum of \$198,000 to assist in the financing of this project. Since the approval of that agreement, the low bid received September 8, 2004 for the project amounted to \$361,231, resulting in an increase of \$121,231 from the original construction cost estimate. Due to this increase, NRCS agreed to amend the original agreement (Amendment No. 2) to increase its maximum participation amount to \$296,931.88. Amendment No. 1, which was approved by the Board on October 26, 2004 to extend the term of agreement by 90 days to allow additional time for project completion.

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REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item was reviewed by Deputy County Counsel Charles S. Scolastico, 387-5481 on November 17, 2004 and County Administrative Office (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst), 387-4635 on November 17, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: The estimated construction cost for this project is now \$361,231. Per this amendment, NRCS will cost share up to a maximum of \$296,931.88. The remaining amount (\$64,299.12) is available by the District in its Zone 2 FY 2004/05 Budget (RFF 092 092 200 2445 78F01839).

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this item and concurs with the District's recommendation because the emergency mitigation measures are necessary to minimize the impact of future significant storm events. In addition, the District is being reimbursed for a majority of the cost of this project by the NRCS.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): 3rd

PRESENTER: Patrick J. Mead, 387-7906

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